

NEWS RELEASE

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Habitual Felon Team sends 13 to prison

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Habitual Felon Team convicted 17 defendants during the week of November 13, 2017. Thirteen of those defendants were sent to prison. The defendants entered their guilty pleas in courtroom 5350 before The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Superior Court Judge. Among those convicted and sent to prison were:

James Bunch, 30, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and 3) being a habitual felon. Bunch was sentenced to 77-105 months in prison. Bunch's prior convictions include larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen motor vehicle and assault by strangulation.

Marquette Hoey, 35, pled guilty to 1) possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 2) larceny from the person and 3) being a habitual felon. Hoey was sentenced to 77-105 months in prison. Hoey's prior convictions include attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon, possession of cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Pedro Espinoza, 27, pled guilty to 1) common law robbery, 2) felony breaking or entering and 3) being a habitual felon. Espinoza was sentenced to 58-82 months in prison. Espinoza's prior convictions include breaking or entering a motor vehicle, felony breaking or entering and possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Charles Edward McGowan, 33, pled guilty to 1) felony breaking or entering and 2) being a habitual breaking or entering status offender. McGowan was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison. McGowan's prior convictions include three counts of felony breaking or entering.

Jaron Michael Groomes, 27, pled guilty to 1) possession of heroin, 2) habitual larceny and 3) being a habitual felon. Groomes was sentenced to 30-48 months in prison. Groomes' prior convictions include felony possession of marijuana and two counts of possession of cocaine.

Note: Almost all guilty pleas entered in criminal administrative court are the result of an agreed upon plea arrangement between the State and the defendant, which is then approved by the sentencing judge. For more information about why most cases must be resolved by plea negotiation instead of jury trial, please visit the "Understanding Criminal Court" section of the DA's website at www.charmeckda.com.

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